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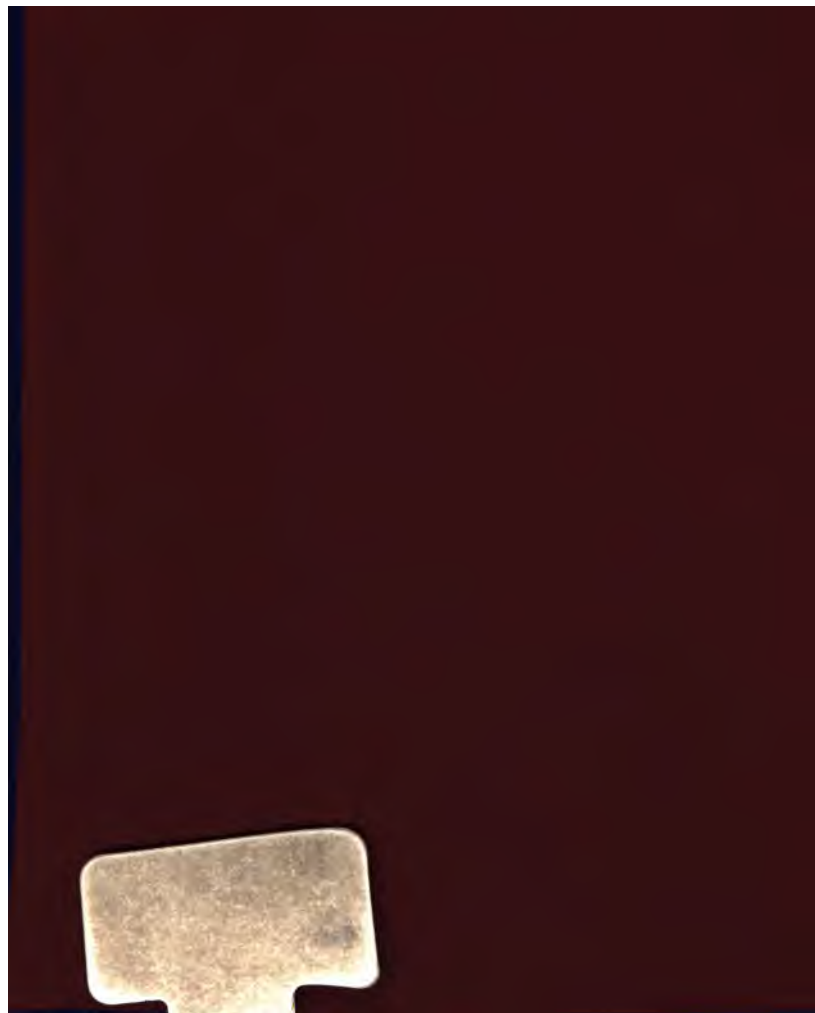
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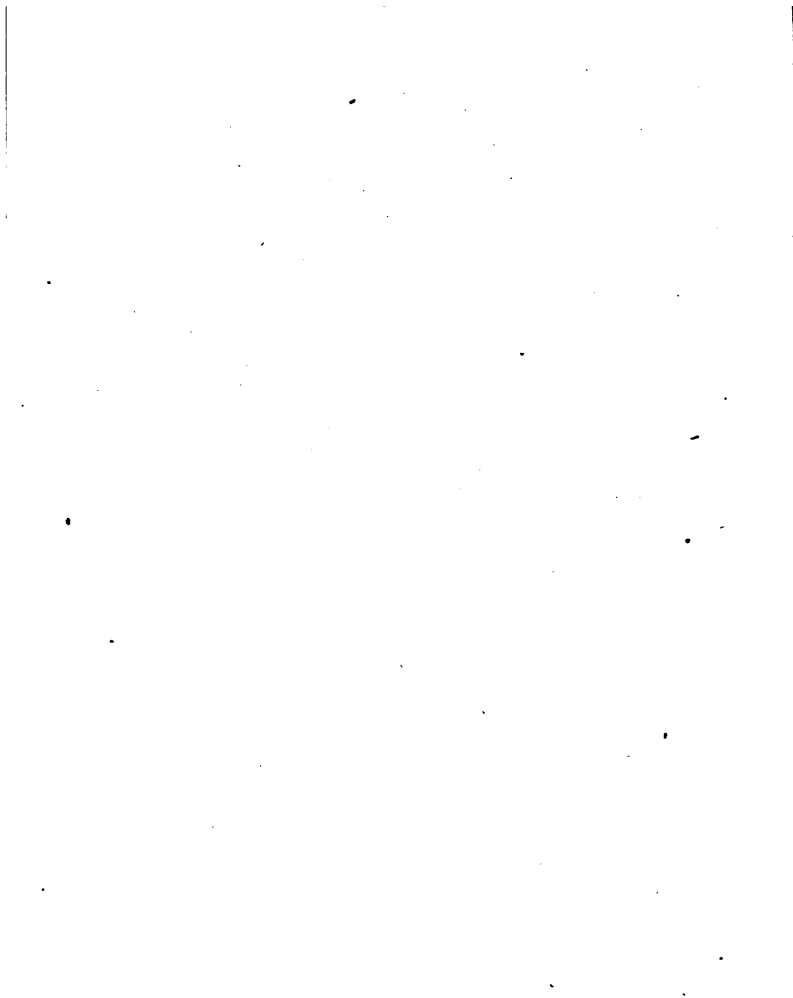
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An Alphabetical Psalm.

100. c.

231. of Christian Life.





AN
Alphabetical Psalm
OF
CHRISTIAN LIFE.

BY
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PREFACE.

THE Author thinks it desirable to state that the fashion of the Poem here given to the Public, was suggested by the Alphabetical arrangement of the 119th Psalm. His readers are aware that the several portions of that wonderful effusion, so full of the Holy Ghost, have prefixed to them in our Bibles the various letters of the Hebrew Alphabet in their due order. Each of the eight verses, into which such portions are divided, begins with the letter thus printed above them.

The capacities of the English language do not admit of this enlargement. The Author was obliged to omit the letter X, as we have not a word thus commencing. The choice in the letter Z was inconveniently limited.

The advantages of this method of presenting Truth are obvious. Not only does the eye derive an instinctive pleasure from such a display of order and symmetry, thus bespeaking the heed of the mind, but the mind itself takes easy and lasting hold of the instruction so marshalled and prepared. If the Author may be pardoned the seeming vanity of the comparison, he would liken his attempt to a treasure-house, so systematically arranged, and having its contents so carefully labelled and endorsed, that the finger may be laid at once

upon each separate item of value,—things large and small, “things new and old.”

The Alphabet is a well-known basis on which such classification is built. The Author has used it here, and if his words may conduce in any degree to the instruction, refreshment, or correction of his readers in those matters which concern the soul, he will thank and praise Him from whom cometh “every good and perfect gift.” May He grant this happy result.

The figures 1, 2, 3, 4, prefixed to the Scripture references, indicate the particular line of the stanza to which such references belong.



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A

AWAKE, awake, my soul awake ;
the night is well nigh gone ;
Arouse thee from the bed of sloth,
and gird thine armour on :
Above—the banner of the Cross
unfolds a sign of might ;
Around—God's angels minister,
to nerve thee for the fight.

1 Rom. xiii. 11, 12.

2 Eph. vi. 11.

4 Heb. i. 14.

B

BELEAGUERED forely I may be,
heart-sick with "hope deferred,"

Bearing about my living flesh
"the dying of the Lord ;"

But sevenfold are the promises
to those that overcome,

Before "a cloud of witnesses"
bringing their trophies home.

1 Prov. xiii. 12.

2 Cpr. iv. 10.

3 Rev. ii. 7, 11, 17, 26 ; iii. 5, 12, 21.

4 Heb. xii. 1.



CONTENT thee therefore, O my soul,
to drink the cup of tears ;

Confide in Him who portions out
thy "fightings" and thy "fears ;"

Control the murmuring voice that cries,
when shall I be at rest ?

Cease to rebel against the state,
thy Father judges best.

¹ Ps. vi. 6. Isa. xxv. 8.

² 2 Cor. vii. 5.

³ Ps. lv. 6.

⁴ Phil. iv. 11.



DUTY to God is graven deep
on the devoted heart ;

Dear unto Him the weal of those
that choofe the better part ;

Doubt, O my foul, and thou wilt fink,
as Peter in the wave ;

Depend upon thy Saviour's arm,
and He is strong to fave.

1 Ps. xl. 8.

2 Luke, x. 42. John, xi. 5.

3 Matt. xiv. 25-31.

4 Ifa. lxiii. 1.



ELISHA's open eyes be mine,
to see the heavenly band

Encircling me with floods of fire,
as in my "lot" I stand :

Eternal truth has pledged the word,
so comforting to me,—

" Even to hoary hairs " unchanged,
unwearied, " I am He."

¹ 2 Kings, vi. 15-17.

² Dan. xii. 13.

⁴ Isa. xlvi. 4.



FAITH shall give "substance" to the hope
that looks beyond the sky,
Fan me with airs of Paradise,
and fix my thoughts on high,
Fill every lowly task with Heaven,
and by her ample "shield"
Fence me against the "fiery darts"
my enemy may wield.

Heb. xi. 1.

4 Eph. vi. 16.



GOD of my fathers, if indeed
Thou dealest thus with me,
Grievous upon my soul the guilt,
unless I live to Thee ;
Grant that I follow in the steps
first trodden by my Lord ;
Give me a daily hunger
for the Manna of Thy word.

3 John, xiii. 15. 1 Pet. ii. 21.

4 Matt. v. 6.



HIGH is the gracious bidding
to the "Supper of the Lamb ;"

Humble the saint's reflection,
as he cries—How vile I am !

Holy the panting of the heart,
such lofty hopes will move ;

Happy the new-born spirit,
with the labour of its love.

1 Rev. xix. 9.

2 Job, xl. 4.

3 Ps. xlii. 1.

4 Heb. vi. 10.



INFINITE are the drops of dew,
ere day is well begun,
Impearling every blade of grafs,
and glistening in the sun :
Infuse, O Lord, Thy Spirit's dew
more plentifully still
Into my thirsty soul, that I
Thy pleasure may fulfil.



JOURNEYING on I'll keep my eyes
upon my heavenly house,
Jerusalem, the new, the free,
the mother, and the spouse;
Jubilant are the hymns of praise
that echo there on high,
Jealously let me tune my notes,
to join them by and by.

1 2 Cor. v. 1, 2.

2 Gal. iv. 26. Rev. xxi. 2.



KINDLE me as a "lamp of God"
with Thine own lustre bright ;

Keep me a "living sacrifice,"
"a burning, shining light :"

Keen as a sharp two-edged sword,
Thy word has pierced my soul ;

Kind as a nurse, "Thy gentleness"
has soothed and made me whole.

1 1 Sam. iii. 3.

2 Rom. xii. 1. John, v. 35.

3 Heb. iv. 12.

4 1 Thes. ii. 7. Ps. xviii. 35.

L

LOVE be the motto of my life,
for Christ hath loved me ;

Long as my days the memory dear
of Jesus on the Tree :

“Less than the least”—said holy Paul,
and how much more may I,

Loft in the thought that e'en for me
the Lord came down to die !

¹ 1 John, iv. 19. Jude, 21,

³ Eph. iii. 8.



MUTE in the ardour of their gaze,
the angels love to view

Mercy supreme upon her throne,
and Truth triumphant too ;

May I in soberness hope on
to win the promised prize,

My Saviour coming back again,
to bear me to the skies.

¹ 1 Pet. i. 12.

² Ps. lxxxv. 10.

³ 1 Pet. i. 13.

⁴ John, xiv. 3.



NEVER to soil my fair white robes,
to see no evil days,

Not to abate for e'en an hour
the rapture of my praise ;

No heart of man hath yet conceived
a heritage like this,

Nor can the "weight" be measured of
the saints' eternal bliss.

1 Rev. vii. 13, 14. Prov. xv. 15. Eph. v. 16.

2 Rev. iv. 8.

3 1 Cor. ii. 9.

4 2 Cor. iv. 17.



O WELCOME funshine! glorious hope!

I'll staunch my tears, for lo!

Over the murky sorrow-cloud
outshines the covenant bow:

Only believe; the Lord is not
a mortal to repent,

Omnipotence is on thy fide,
and thou shalt rest content.

¹ Prov. iv. 18.

² Ps. cxii. 4. Gen. ix. 16.

³ Num. xxiii. 19.

⁴ Rom. viii. 31.



PAUSE in thy soaring flight, my foul ;
let not so bold a song

Plume thee with thoughts too confident,
although thy wing be strong ;

Prefume not as a conqueror,
but ever raise on high

Petitions full and fervent for
thy final victory.

3 1 Kings, xx. 11.

4 Matt. xxiv. 13. Heb. iii. 14.



QUESTION thine own deceitfulness,
hunt out the "secret fault,"

"Quench not the Spirit," press thou on,
there is no time to halt ;

Quit thee like one upon the watch,
with wakeful eye and true,

Quick to descry thine enemy,
and bold to meet him too.

¹ Jer. xvii. 9. Ps. xix. 12.

² 1 Thes. v. 19. Phil. iii. 14.

³ Hab. ii. 1. 1 Pet. v. 8. Mark, xiii. 37.

R

RESIST not Him that calleth thee ;
and all these homely checks,

Receive thou as well-chosen yokes
for stubborn human necks :

Range thou within God's pastures fair,
earth's greenest, happiest spot,

Rest thee beside the waters still,
but O forsake them not.

¹ Heb. xii. 25.

² Lam. iii. 27. . Matt. xi. 29.

³ John, x. 9. Ps. xxiii. 2.

⁴ Jer. ii. 13.



SEE how "the joy before Him" did
thy stricken Saviour cheer ;

Salvation is a large reward
for strife and trouble here :

"Study to shew thyself approved,"
and thine Almighty friend

Shall "stablish, strengthen, settle," "shield,"
and "seal" thee to the end.

1 Heb. xii. 2. Isa. liii. 11.

3 2 Tim. ii. 15.

4 1 Pet. v. 10. Ps. xxxiii. 20.

Eph. i. 13 ; iv 30. Rev. vii. 3.



TREES of the Lord's own husbandry
are heavenly fair to see,

Towering above the mists of earth,
rooted immoveably,

Thick studded with ambrosial fruit,
wide-branching o'er the ground

To shed their healing leaves afar :
thus, Lord, may I be found.

¹ Isa. lxi. 3. Ps. civ. 16.

² Eph. iii. 17.

³ Jam. iii. 17. John, xv. 8. Eph. v. 9.

⁴ Exod. xv. 23-25. Rev. xxii. 2.



UNDER the canopy of night
I see the lowly worm

Unbidden show his emerald glow,
alike in calm and storm ;

Upon my soul the lesson be,
that e'en in darkling skies,

Unceasing I may bear my lamp,
until "the day-star" rise.

³ Job, xii. 7.

⁴ Phil. ii. 15. 2 Pet. i. 19.



VIOLETS have a voice for man,
as underneath his feet,
Veiling themselves, they fling around
unconscious odours sweet ;
Vouchsafe, O Lord, that I, despised,
down-trodden, and unknown,
Vials of odours may diffuse,
seeking Thy praise alone.

1 Matt. vi. 28.

4 Phil. iv. 18. Rev. v. 8.



WHEREVER Thou shalt place me, there
I would Thy work fulfil,

Willing to spend my strength for Thee,
and willing to lie still,

Waiting to hear the golden harps,
to join the wondrous song,—

“Worthy the Lamb”—who died for us,
and pondering—“Lord, how long?”

³ Rev. v. 8 ; xiv. 2, 3.

⁴ Rev. v. 12. Ps. vi. 3.



YIELDING myself to Thee, as one
uprisen from the dead ;

Yearning to feel the kingly crown
of heaven upon my head :

Yet, gracious Lord, I'll bide my time ;
Thy promises are all

Yea and Amen in Jesus Christ,
until the tree shall fall.

¹ Rom. vi. 13. Col. iii. 1.

² Rev. i. 6 ; ii. 10. 1 Pet. v. 4.

³ 2 Cor. i. 20.

⁴ Eccles. xi. 3.



ZACCHEUS of the open hand
shall my example be,
Zest of my pleasure is the thought
of glorifying Thee ;
Zoned with the gems of righteousness,
Thy tender care I'll prove,
Zealous for God I'll close my eyes,
to open them above.

¹ Luke, xix. 8. Heb. vi. 12.

² Ps. i. 2 ; xxxvii. 4.

³ Prov. xiii. 6. Isa. lxi. 10. 2 Cor. ix. 10.

⁴ Num. xxv. 13. Ps. xvii. 15.

